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May 2012 Proclaimed Problem-Solving Court Month in the State of Delaware

On May 15, 2012, Chief Justice Myron T. Steele, Secretary Rita Landgraf (Department of Health and Social Services), Commissioner Carl C. Danberg (Department of Correction) as well as members of the judiciary and legislators joined Governor Jack Markell as he proclaimed May 2012 Problem-Solving Court Month in the State of Delaware at a ceremony in Legislative Hall.

The proclamation recognizes twenty-three years of Drug Courts in the United States and eighteen years of Problem-Solving Courts in the State of Delaware. Delaware's first Problem-Solving Court began operations in 1994 with the creation of the Superior Court Drug Court. Delaware now operates over fifteen problem-solving courts including drug courts, gun court, mental health courts, reentry courts, truancy courts, trauma-informed probation court and veterans' treatment court.

Problem-Solving Courts are specialized courts that address matters under a court jurisdiction through a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach incorporating collaboration between the court, other governmental entities and community organizations.

The goal of these specialized courts is to reduce recidivism rates and save criminal justice resources by holding defendants accountable for their actions while ensuring that they have access to services to support their efforts to become productive tax-paying citizens. The courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and healthcare professionals in the treatment of substance abuse and mental illness and the fight against criminality.

Problem-Solving Court Month will be celebrated with graduations, courts site-visits and presentations throughout the state. Chief Justice Myron T. Steele said, "I am pleased to recognize the important works of the judiciary and others in resolving the complex issues faced by the litigants in these courts."

Governor Markell's proclamation encouraged Delaware citizens to recognize the efforts of problem-solving court practitioners and the approximately

5,000 individuals who have successfully graduated from a problem-solving court in Delaware.

For more information on Delaware's Problem-Solving Courts, please contact Carmen Facciolo at (302) 255-0099 or via e-mail at carmen.facciolo@state.de.us.